

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A specimen-inspection preprocessing apparatus comprising:

a desk-type housing; and

5 a plurality of specimen processing units arranged on the desk-type housing, at least some of the plurality of specimen processing units each include a rotary conveying mechanism.

10 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rotary conveying mechanism includes:

a turntable having a plurality of holding sections on a peripheral portion thereof, the holding sections holding a plurality of objects to be conveyed such as specimen containers;

15 a driving motor for turning the turntable;

a turning control device for controlling the driving motor to temporarily stop the turntable when the turntable turns a predetermined angle; and

20 carry-in/carry-out means for carrying the objects into/out of the holding sections of the turntable temporarily stopping after the turntable turns the predetermined angle, in synchronization with a control operation of the turning control device.

25 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of specimen processing units include:

a master-specimen carry-in unit provided on a specimen operating surface of the desk-type housing,

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for carrying in a master specimen contained in a
master-specimen container;

5 a usable-region detection unit for detecting a
usable region of the master specimen carried in by the
master-specimen carry-in unit;

a stopper-removing unit for removing a stopper of
the master-specimen container containing the master
specimen;

10 a slave-specimen container supply unit for
supplying an empty slave-specimen container;

a label issuing unit for preparing an
identification label and sticking the identification
label to the slave-specimen container supplied from the
slave-specimen container supply unit;

15 a pipetting tip supply unit for supplying a
disposable pipetting tip;

a pipetting unit on which the pipetting tip
supplied from the pipetting tip supply unit is mounted
and which aliquots, through the pipetting tip, the
20 master specimen from the master-specimen container from
which the stopper is removed by the stopper-removing
unit and then dispenses, through the pipetting tip, a
slave specimen into the slave-specimen container to
which the identification label is stuck;

25 a slave-specimen carry-out unit for carrying out
the slave specimen dispensed into the slave-specimen
container by the pipetting unit; and

09885007 062101

a master-specimen container carry-out unit for carrying out the master-specimen container after the aliquot operation is performed.

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